

**PRESS RELEASE
JANUARY 7, 2004**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF WATER APPLICATIONS IN CACHE
VALLEY TO BE DISCUSSED AT PUBLIC MEETING**

On Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at 5:00 p.m., the State Engineer will hold a public meeting at the North Logan Library located at 475 East 2500 North, North Logan. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a proposal to not advertise small water applications in Cache Valley.

Under Utah statute, the State Engineer advertises water right applications in a newspaper of general circulation where the source of water is located. The statutes also allow the State Engineer discretion in determining if small applications should be advertised. A small application is an application that provides water for one family, 1/4 acre of irrigation and 10 cattle or an equivalent amount of water for livestock purposes. Historically in Cache Valley, all water applications have been advertised.

Most of these small applications are currently being approved if they meet established guidelines. The State Engineer imposes conditions on the approval to protect the rights of other water right holders. If the applications were not advertised, the State Engineer would continue to impose conditions on any approval necessary to protect the rights of others.

The State Engineer is seeking comments from the public if there are concerns with not advertising these small water applications, if there are critical areas of the valley that

public notice is warranted, and other related concerns of water users and the public. Bob Fotheringham, Northern Regional Engineer with the Division of Water Rights, stated, "If advertising is not required for these small water applications, the time needed to process applications and the workload of the Division should be reduced."

Often individuals wanting to build homes in the county in areas not served by a public water supply system find out they have to file a water application and receive approval before a building permit is issued. The water application process normally takes several months. The advertising and protest period account for about half of the processing time. If the advertising is not necessary the processing time should be much faster. However, if there are concerns about providing adequate public notice, the public needs to inform the State Engineer of their concerns.

For further information, contact:

Gail Nelson

(801) 538-7370

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Addresses to send notice to:

Cache County Water Policy Advisory
Board
C/o Cache County
179 N Main
Logan UT 84321

W. Wayne Bankhead
780 S Center
Wellsville UT 84339

Bear Properties
297 E 200 N
Logan UT 84321

PacifiCorp
Jody Williams
Holme, Roberts & Owen LLC
299 S Main #1800
Salt Lake City UT 84111

D. Brent Rose
Clyde, Snow, Sessions & Swenson, P.C.
One Utah Center, Suite 1300
201 S Main
Salt Lake City UT 84111-2216

Randall C Budge
Racine, Olson, Nye, Cooper & Budge
Center Plaza – Corner First & Center
POB 1391
Pocatello ID 83204-1391

US Fish & Wildlife
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
58 S 950 W
Brigham City UT 84302

Bureau of Reclamation
C/o Jonathan Jones
302 E 1860 S
Provo UT 84606-7317

Smithfield Irrigation Co
C/o Jeff Gittins
152 W 200 S
Smithfield UT 84335

Clair Allen
1149 E 12700 N
Cove UT 84320

Bear Lake Regional Commission
2661 US Hwy 89
Paris ID 83287

Charles Holmgren
Bear River Commissioner
5380 N 4700 W
Bear River City, UT 84301